Total No. of sanctioned Posts (all categories.)	No. of workers of specified community on roll			Backlog of vacancies		
	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC
85,194	20,754	11,700	24,939	7	22	NIL

The backlog of 7 posts of SCs & 22 posts of STs is due to non-availability of eligible technical candidates from SC and ST communities.

(c) Action is being taken to fill up the vacant posts of SC/ST through local employment exchange and special recuitment drives through advertisements in newspapers and Rojgar Samachar.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal

2771. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that due to non-availability of coal, many hard coke factories are/or lying closed in Northern Chhota Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to supply coal to these closed hard coke factories;

(d) if so, by when the coal is likely to be supplied to these factories; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the smooth supply of coal to these factories in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) According to information received from Coal India Ltd., they are not aware of any hard coke manufacturing units in the Northern Chhota Nagpur having been closed for want of coal.

(e) The hard coke manufacturing units of Northern Chhota Nagpur region are being supplied non-linked washery (NLW) coking coal from the collieries of Central Coalfields Ltd. All efforts are being taken by coal company to meet the demand of this sector to the extent of availability of NLW coking coal.

[English]

Defection Law

2772. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand in view of the present political atmosphere to review the 'Defection Law' to meet the present political situation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to convene any all party meeting in this respect; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) In the meeting of political parties held on 29th July, 1997, it was decided that the Government would convene a separate meeting of political parties to discuss the issue of anit-defection law. No date for meeting of political parties has, however, yet been fixed.

Funds to Sick Public Sector Undertakings

2773. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government allocate funds to sick public sector units for revitalisation purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such sick companies to whom funds have been allocated and the amount of financial assistance allocated during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether such financial assistance has been sought by any public sector units in Gujarat; and

(d) it so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Funds are allocated to sick PSUs based on the approval of the revival plan by the Government. The revival plans include, inter-alia, write off of outstanding loans, conversion of outstanding loans into equity, waiver of interest due to Government and grant of assistance for voluntary retirement scheme and infusion of fresh funds. Information regarding financial assistance allocated. PSU-wise, during the last three years is being collected.

(c) and (d) Revival Plan of Petrofils Cooperative Ltd., Vadodra (Gujarat) has been received. The Plan includes, inter-alia, phasing of loans, working capital and infusion of fresh equity/interest free loans ete. Revival Plan in respect of National Textile Corportion which includes mills under NTC (Gujarat) has also been received. No decision has yet been taken on these proposals.

[Translation]

Income Tax Outstanding Against Air Conditioner Companies

2774. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airconditioner companies in the country and the income tax outstanding against them and the date from which it is outstanding and the details of the scheme formulated by the Government to recover the outstanding income tax;

(b) whether the income tax is still outstanding against Shiva Air Conditioner Company in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details in regard to the recovery of income tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Information of outstanding income-tax trade-wise or according to items of manufacture is not separately maintained. Further, very few companies wholly and exclusively manufacture air-conditioners. Therefore, information in this regard would require references to field offices spread all over the country. Collection and compilation of such information would be time-consuming and efforts and labour involved in the matter may not be commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved. However, if the Hon'ble Member desires to have the information about any particular company, the same can be collected and furnished.

(b) and (c) M/s. Shiva Airconditioning Company located at 2811, A-Block, Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi is a proprietary concern engaged in hiring, repairing and manufacturing of air-conditioners. According to information collected, there is outstanding income-tax of Rs.1207/- raised in January, 1997 in this case.

Challan has been sent by the Assessing Officer towards realisation of the above demand.

[English]

Dispute Settlement Forum of WTO

2775. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Commission is likely to take up a decision on hauling India to the dispute settlement forum of the World Trade Organisation; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The European Communities have sought formal consultations with India, inter-alia, under Article XXII of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 and the Understanding on Rules and procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) alleging that continued maintenance of quantitative restrictions on imports by India is inconsistent with India's obligations under the World Trade Organisation. India has accepted the request for consultations.

Investment in North-Eastern Region

2776. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total private investment made since the adoption of new economic policy in the seven North-Eastern States in the sectors of power, coal mining, oil and gas exploration/tapping, civil aviation, inland water-ways, and roads;

(b) the particulars of the projects in which the said private investment has been made; and

(c) the number of private investors who have availed of the special incentives given for investment in the North-East?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Since the adoption of new economic policy till June, 1997, 16 Letters of Intent involving investment of Rs. 2431 Crores were granted and 87 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda with a proposed investment of Rs. 4017 Crores were filed for setting up of industries in the seven North Eastern States. However, details regarding private investment made in power, coal mining, oil and gas exploration/tapping, civil aviation, inland water-ways and roads or special incentives availed by private investors are not centrally maintained.

Coal Linkage

2777. SHRI B.K. GADHVI:

SHRI SHANTI LAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the parameters of quarterly allocation of coal linkage for power generation;

(b) the quarterly demand of coal by Gujarat Electricity Board during the last three years and the actual allocation made;

(c) whether the supply of coal has been as per the demand;

(d) if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) the future planning for allocation and supply of adequate coal linkage to GEB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) Linkages to power houses in the country including the power houses of Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) are sanctioned by the Standing Linkage Committee (short term) on quarterly basis taking into account the long term projections, the views of Ministry of Power/Central Electricity Authority, availability of coal, payment and transport constraints and unloading performance of the Power Station etc.

Since outstanding dues from GEB had mounted and the GEB had not made arrangements to clear even the